

REMARKS

Claims 15-18 and 24-31 were pending. Claims 15 and 24 have been amended for clarity, without acquiescence or prejudice to pursue the original claims in a related application. Claims 32-46 are new. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 15-18 and 24-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Quayle et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,694,464) in view of Kiefer et al. (*Deterministic BIST with Multiple Scan Chains*).

Quayle et al. is prior art under 102(e). Applicant notes that, at the time the claimed invention was made, the claimed invention and Quayle was owned by, or were subject to an obligation of assignment to, the same person. An assignment for Quayle is recorded in the Patent and Trademark Office at Reel/Frame: 011513/0513.

Specifically, at the time the claimed invention was made, the claimed invention was owned by, or was subject to an obligation of assignment to, Cadence Design Systems, Inc. Furthermore, at the time the claimed invention was made, Quayle was owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to, Quickturn Design Systems, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Cadence Design Systems, Inc.

As this Statement of Common Ownership disqualifies Quayle as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 15-18 and 24-27 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, because Kiefer et al. does not teach or suggest the claimed invention as a whole, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 15-18 and 24-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sample et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,377,912) in view of Kiefer et al. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim 15 and 24 includes the limitation of “wherein the scan chains are driven by ExORing the pins from the n groups.” The Office Action states that Sample et al. do not disclose an ExOR matrix. Applicant agrees.

Because Sample et al. fails to disclose any ExOR matrix, it does not teach or suggest wherein the scan chains are driven by ExORing the pins from the n groups as claimed.

The Office Action also states that Kiefer et al. discloses an ExOR matrix as claimed in section 2 under target structure. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Keifer et al. does not teach or suggest any scan chains driven by ExORing the pins from the n groups. The scan chains of Keifer et al. are driven by the ExORing Linear Feedback Shift Register (LFSR) and Sequence Modified Logic (SML) as input. It is not driven by ExORing the pins from the n groups as claimed. Therefore Keifer et al. also fails to disclose wherein the scan chains are driven by ExORing the pins from the n groups.

Even if there is motivation to combine these references, the resulting combination fails to disclose or suggest “wherein the scan chains are driven by ExORing the pins from the n groups.” Therefore, Sample et al. and Keifer et al., singly or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all the features of the claim. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 28-31

Claims 28-31 were added in the prior Amendment filed on March 21, 2007 and are method claims corresponding to claims 15-18 as well as 24-27. Thus, they are allowable for at least the above reasons.

New Claims

New claims 32-46 include the limitation “the scan chain is driven by logically associating the pins from the two groups” which is not taught or suggested in the cited prior art.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, it is believed that, with entry of this amendment, all claims are now allowable and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (650) 849-4820.

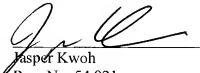
To the extent that any arguments and disclaimers were presented to distinguish prior art, or for other reasons substantially related to patentability, during the prosecution of any and all parent and related application(s)/patent(s), Applicant(s) hereby explicitly retracts and rescinds any and all such arguments and disclaimers, and respectfully requests that the Examiner re-visit the prior art that such arguments and disclaimers were made to avoid.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Bingham McCutchen's Deposit Account No. 50-4047, referencing billing number 7034222001. The Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment or to charge any underpayment to Bingham McCutchen's Deposit Account No. 50-4047, referencing billing number 7034222001.

Respectfully submitted,

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